Department of Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: 07/28/2022

From: Matthew Bennett

Subj: Comment: They Call Me Mister Tibbs!

To: Memorandum For Record

On Thursday, July 28th, 2022, I Matthew Bennett, a male of African American origin had stopped by the Phoenix VA Police Department, Room #D106, in the morning. I am currently detailed to the Union full-time and stationed at another building.

During this incident, I was walking in the department's hallway between the cubical and the fingerprint machine. I then saw Captain Joshua FISTER, a middle-aged male of Euro-Descent, step into the main section of the department and look towards me. FISTER greeted me, then stated in a jokingly manner:

"They call Me Mister Bennett!"

This phrase was referring to a movie character named "Virgil Tibbs"; a police detective, played by Sidney PORTIER in the movie trilogies:

- *In the Heat of the Night* (1967)
- *They Call Me Mister Tibbs!* (1970)
- *The Organization* (1971)

PORTIER is a Bahamian male of African-Descent. In these trilogies, as the character "Tibbs," PORTIER was known for wearing a suit & tie.

On this day, I was wearing a suit & tie as I normally do, while functioning as a union official.

Based on this incident, this shows that I am still continually subjected to discrimination, while even detailed out of the department, based on my professionalism, speaking eloquently, and my racial origin.

MATTHEW BENNETT Digitally signed by MATTHEW BENNETT Date: 2022.08.02 08:30:56 -07'00'

Matthew Bennet

Matthew Bennett

Lead Police Officer - Sergeant

VA FORM MAR 1989 **2105**